

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A networked monitor system for a storage area network (SAN), comprising:  
a plurality of SAN monitor devices each being connected to the SAN and to a communications network, each monitor device being operable to issue commands to, transmit data to, and/or receive data from the SAN; and  
a master connected to the communications network and communicating with the monitor devices.
2. The networked monitor system of claim 1, wherein the monitor devices transmit information gathered from the SAN to the master via the communications network.
3. The networked monitor system of claim 1, wherein at least some of the monitor devices are programmable, and wherein the master programs the programmable monitor devices by transmitting software instructions to the monitor devices via the communications network.
4. The networked monitor system of claim 1, wherein at least some of the monitor devices are each housed in a housing and is removeably connected to the SAN.
5. The networked monitor system of claim 1, wherein at least some of the monitor devices are attachment modules each attached to an existing device on the SAN.
6. A monitor for a storage area network (SAN), comprising:  
an SAN interface for communicating with the SAN; and  
a programmable logic block connected to the SAN interface and adapted to be connected to a communications network.
7. The monitor of claim 6, wherein the programmable logic block is programmed to issue commands to, transmit data to, and/or receive data from the SAN through the SAN interface.

8. The monitor of claim 7, wherein the programmable logic block is programmed to transmit information gathered from the SAN to the communications network.
9. The monitor of claim 6, wherein the programmable logic block is programmable by software instruction received via the communications network.
10. The monitor of claim 6, further comprising a housing, wherein the SAN interface and the programmable logic block are contained within the housing.
11. A monitor attachment module for a storage area network (SAN), the SAN including a plurality of SAN devices to be monitored and a switch having a plurality of ports for connecting to SAN devices, the monitor attachment module comprising:
- a plurality of first ports each adapted to be connected to a port of the switch;
  - a plurality of second ports each adapted to be connected to a SAN device, each second port being connected to a corresponding first port;
  - at least one SAN monitor adapted to be connected to a communications network; and
  - at least one multiplexer, each multiplexer being connected to a corresponding monitor for selectively connecting the monitor to one or more second ports.
12. The monitor attachment module of claim 11, further comprising a scan control device connected to the at least one multiplexer for controlling a connection pattern between the monitor and the plurality of second ports.
13. The monitor attachment module of claim 12, wherein the scan control device is adapted to be connected to the communications network.
14. The monitor attachment module of claim 13, further comprising a network communications hub for connecting the monitor and the scan control device to the communications network.

15. The monitor attachment module of claim 13, wherein the monitor and the scan control device are programmable by software instruction received via the communications network.
16. The monitor attachment module of claim 11, comprising:  
a plurality of SAN monitor; and  
a plurality of multiplexers each corresponding to a monitor for selectively connecting the monitor to one or more second ports.
17. A method of monitoring a storage area network (SAN), comprising:  
gathering information about the SAN using a plurality of monitor devices connected to the SAN;  
communicating the gathered information to a master via a communications network; and  
processing the communicated information using the master.
18. The method of claim 17, further comprising programming the monitor devices by transmitting software instruction from the master to the monitor devices via the communications network.